

# Scriptural Truths

## E-Mail Meditations

The Lord Will Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

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### Where Are They Now?

#### Introduction

Two weeks ago there were two deaths of interest to me. One was in Rome and one in Ireland. Both were men and both were highly esteemed by those who knew them. While neither met the other, yet in a matter of hours they were both taken by the power of death. Both lived to serve God as each understood. For one, the mourning period was for nine days and then there was great rituals for the funeral. One was buried in three coffins with a lead one sealed and the wooden casket held in place by nine golden nails. The other was buried in a plain wooden coffin. The question to be considered is one the ancient writer exhorted those who are alive to consider. He wrote:

- a) "It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart." (Ecc. 7:2)
- b) "The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth." (Ecc. 7:4)
  - i) That leads to the consideration of not what happens to my body when I die, but where will I be after I die? It is an "either" or "or" consideration. As one friend used to say, "When you take the quickest non returnable journey where is your destiny?"

On April 21st 2025 Pope Francis died. On September 5th 1997 the famous nun Mother Teresa died. Both were virtuous and lived for to help the poor and needy children. Surely one with such a life went to heaven. Pope Francis had been a Jesuit priest, a man of the people who was adored and loved by the millions. He was as devoted to the church as one could be. Surely when they both died one would think the gates of Heaven were wide open.

- a) The fact is, I do not know where he is and it would be foolish to speculate. The Holy Spirit caused it to be written "The Lord knoweth them that are his" (2 Tim. 2:19). No one knows what was in the mind of any person minutes before death. When hanging on one of the crosses at Calvary, one malefactor acknowledged Jesus as Lord and seems to be the only one who believed in the resurrection of the Lord. He acknowledged this while his body was dying. I say, no one knows what spiritual dealings one has with God before death. The eternal destiny of each is not determined by God in eternity past, no one is elected for Hell, and no one can say there is no salvation for me while they are yet alive. The open invitation for the Lord is, "Whosoever", no restrictions, no special prayers or religious rituals or secular good works. The Monseigneur Knox translation of the Bible, which the pope very possibly had since it had the imprimatur of the Catholic church, has the way of salvation. In Romans 6:23 it reads, "Sin offers death for wages; God offers us eternal life as a free gift, through Jesus Christ our Lord". He could have possibly read St Paul's epistle to Timothy in which Paul wrote, "Since it is His (God's) will that all men should be saved and to be led to recognize the truth: there is only one God and only one mediator between God and man, Jesus Christ" (1 Tim. 2:5). What is evident is the Pope had all that was needed to be assured of Heaven as a gift from God without works.

The other individual was a man in Northern Ireland called Samuel Wilson Jennings. He was called Samuel after his dad and called Wilson after his uncle. It was a rough poverty stricken family with at times having little other than a piece of dry bread and cabbage for a meal. His father was a drunk. Basically all his wages was spent on drink. There was only one member of the family saved by God's grace. Into that self religious family the glorious news of salvation came that Christ died for sinners. Samuel, as a young man, recognized there was nothing he could do to gain God's favour or escape His wrath. In the realization of his spiritual bankruptcy, he turned to God for mercy and accepted God's way of salvation. He saw the truth, Christ suffered my Hell for me, and if I depend on Him alone for salvation I will be saved from ever going to the Lake of fire. When He died some 70 plus years after that sole dependence on the finished work of Christ, having lived a life showing the evidence of new life in Christ, there was no doubt where he went for eternity. The Lord had pledged that at the moment his spirit left the body, before there was the realization he had died, Samuel Wilson Jennings was already in the bliss of Heaven's courts.

Regarding the Pope, no human knows where he is for eternity, but because of the act of full dependence, not Christ and works, not Christ and ritual, but Christ and His finished work, Samuel Jennings entered Heaven and that forever.

The question for each individual is: "Where will I go when I breathe my last breath and enter the valley of death?"

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